



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/544,202	08/02/2005	Gillian Antoinette Mimmagh-Kelleher	NL 030113	8136
24737	7590	06/30/2008	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			STOUT, MICHAEL C	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			3736	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/30/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/544,202	Applicant(s) MIMNAGH-KELLEHER ET AL.
	Examiner MICHAEL C. STOUT	Art Unit 3736

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)

Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/7/2008

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This detailed action is in regards to United States Patent Application 10/544202 filed on August 2, 2005 and is a first action based on the merits of the application.

Specification

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. **Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading.** If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A

COMPACT DISC.

(f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

(1) Field of the Invention.

(2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

(g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

(h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

(i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

(j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).

(k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).

(l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A

"Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

The specification lacks a heading for the above mentioned sections of the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

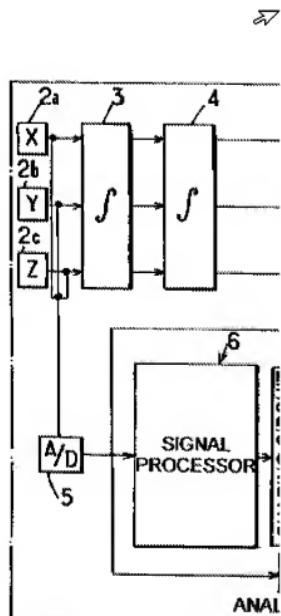
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Depeursinge et al. (US 6,201,476 B1).

Regarding claims 1 and 5, Depeursinge discloses a device/ergometer for determining a value that is representative of accelerations in at least two mutually perpendicular directions, (see Column 2, Lines 33-40), the device comprising a sensor system including at least two accelerometers (accelerometers 2a-2c) with which acceleration in the mutually perpendicular directions is convertible into electric signals while the value value is determinable by signal processing means from an electric signal formed from the electric signals, (the signals from the accelerometer are fed through an A/D converter to a signal processor, see Column 2, lines 40-45 and Figure 1), wherein prior to the signal processing means electric signals from the at least two accelerometers are addable together by an adding element (Figure 1 shows the accelerometer elements being added prior to the signal processing means just below

2c) to form an electric signal, wherein the outputs of the at least two accelerometers are directly connected to the adding element to for the electric signal for processing by the signal processing means (the Figure below shows the outputs from the accelerometers 2a-2c connected by an adding element (junction) are feed to the analog/digital converter 5 prior to a signal processor circuit 6), and the examiner also notes that the outputs are directly connected to another adding element 24, the accelerometers are directly connected to the adding element such that they are not remotely or wireless connected to the adding element.. See Figure Below.



Regarding claims 2 and 6, Depeursinge discloses the apparatus of claims 1 and 5 as set forth above, wherein in the adding element the connections conducting the electric signals are arranged in parallel (Figure 1 shows that in the adding element the connections conducting the signals from the sensor s are arranged in parallel).

Regarding claims 13 and 14, Depeursinge discloses the apparatus of claims 1 and 5 as set forth above, wherein the electrical signals added by the adding element are output currents of the at least two accelerometers added to form a total current for processing by the signal processing means (Depursinge discloses a device comprising three analog accelerometers 2a-2c which output individual voltage and current signals, which join at the junction prior to the analog/digital converter forming a total voltage/current signal, see Figure 1).

Regarding claim 15 Depeursinge discloses a device for determining a value that is representative of accelerations in at least two mutually perpendicular directions (see Column 2, Lines 33-40), the device comprising: a sensor system including at least two accelerometers (accelerometers 2a-2c) for providing output currents; an adder directly connected to the at least two accelerometers (junction shown in Figure 1 between the accelerometers and A/D converter 5) for directly receiving the output currents and forming a total *current*; and a processor configured to receive the total current for processing (the A/D converter 5 receives the total current and forwards the signal to the processor 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-2, 5, 6 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damen et al. EP 1,256,316 A1 in view of Carlijn V. C. Bouteren et al. *"A Triaxial Accelerometer and Portable Data Processing Unit for the Assessment of Daily Physical Activity,"* IEEE Transaction of Biomedical Engineering, Vol. 44, No. 3, March 1997.

Regarding Claims 1 and 5:

Damen discloses an ergometer for measuring a value that is representative of a physical effort of an individual, the ergometer comprising a device that includes a sensor system including at least two accelerometers (a system with three accelerometers) with which the acceleration in each of the directions is convertible into electric signals (the sensor generates an analogue signal, see [0022]), while the value is determinable by signal processing means from an electric signal from the from the electric signals (A/D converter 16, micro-processor 17), wherein prior to the signal processing means electric signals from the at least two accelerometers are addable together by an adding element to form an electric signal (Figure 3 shows an adding element between the amplifiers 15 and signal processing means), wherein outputs of

the at least two accelerometers are directly connected to the adding element to form the electric signal for processing by the signal processing means (as best seen in Figure 3 Damen shows a device wherein the acceleration sensors are dejectedly connected via an adding element junction such that acceleration sensors are not remotely, or wireless connected to the device). Damen fails to teach where the acceleration sensors measure acceleration in each of a mutually perpendicular direction. Bouter teaches an ergometer with a triaxial accelerometer mounted orthogonally which measures acceleration in at least two mutually perpendicular directions (see Page138, Section D).

Both Damen and Bouter teach ergometers. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device taught by Damen by mounting the accelerometers orthogonally with independent measurement directions as taught by Bouter in order to provide the best prediction of energy expenditure, see Bouter Page 136, Column 2, Paragraph 2.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, Damen teaches the device of claims 1 and 5 as set forth above, wherein the electrical signals added by the adding element are output currents of the at least two accelerometers added to form a total current for processing by the signal processing means (Damen teaches a device comprising three analog accelerometers which output individual voltage and current signals, which join at the junction prior to the analog/digital converter forming a total voltage/current signal, see Figure 3).

Regarding claims 15, Damen teaches a device for determining a value that is representative of accelerations (see Column 2, Lines 33-40), the device comprising: a sensor system including at least two accelerometers (accelerometers see Figure 3) for providing output currents; an adder directly connected to the at least two accelerometers (junction shown in Figure 3 between the accelerometers and A/D converter 16 is directly connected to the accelerometers through the amplifiers) for directly receiving the output currents and forming a total *current*; and a processor configured to receive the total current for processing (the A/D converter 16 receives the total current and forwards the signal to the processor 17). Damen fails to teach where the acceleration sensors measure acceleration in each of a mutually perpendicular direction. Bouter teaches an ergometer with a triaxial accelerometer mounted orthogonally which measures acceleration in at least two mutually perpendicular directions (see Page138, Section D).

Both Damen and Bouter teach ergometers. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device taught by Damen by mounting the accelerometers orthogonally with independent measurement directions as taught by Bouter in order to provide the best prediction of energy expenditure, see Bouter Page 136, Column 2, Paragraph 2.

Regarding claims 2 and 6, Damen teaches the device of claims 1 and 5 as set forth above, wherein in the adding element the connections conducting the electrical

signals are arranged in parallel, (Damen Figure 3 shows the connections conducting the signals are arranged in parallel).

Regarding claim 10, Damen teaches the ergometer of claim 5 as set forth above, wherein the ergometer comprises a coupling to which a computer can be connected (the device can dock with a computer by a link, see Damen [0017]), for transferring stored data from the ergometer to the computer.

7. Claims 4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damen in view of Bouteren as applied to claims 1 and 5 above, and further in view of Raz (US 6,639,537 B1).

Damen/Bouteren teaches the device of claims 1 and 5 as set forth above. Furthermore, Damen teaches that the signal processing means comprise a processor, (see Damen Figure 3) and that the acceleration sensors of Bouteren include a band pass filter (Bouteren teaches the use of sequential high pass and low pass filters, which is well recognized in the art as an equivalent to a band pass filter) and analog to digital conversion circuit. Damen fails to teach the device wherein the processing means comprises a signal amplifier. Raz teaches analog-to-digital conversion system (ADC) comprising of an analog front-end low noise amplifier, see Figure 4 and Column 4, Lines 43-55.

Both Damen/Bouteren and Raz teach analog to digital conversion circuits. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the device taught by Damen to include a low noise amplifier as taught by Raz in order to provide appropriate conditioning of the analog input signal, see Raz Column 4, Lines 43-55.

8. Claims 3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damen in view of Bouteren as applied to claims 1 and 5 above, and further in view of Berther et al. (US 5,983,722).

Damen/Bouteren teaches the device of claims 1 and 5 above, wherein a sensor system comprises at least a sensor which comprises a piezoelectric material. Damen fail to explicitly teach the device wherein the piezoelectric material is flexible. Piezoelectric materials produce an electric charge when deformed. In piezoelectric accelerometers this is typically done when a proof mass attached to a substrate causes the piezoelectric material to bend as evidence by Berther. Berther teaches a uniaxial accelerometer wherein the sensor comprises a flexible piezoelectric material (piezoelectric bender element, see Abstract).

Both Damen/Bouteren and Berther teach accelerometers. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the uniaxial in the device taught by Damen/Bouteren for the accelerometer taught by Berther in order to achieve a sensor comprising a flexible piezoelectric material.

9. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damen in view of Bouteren as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Richardson et al. (US 5,976,083).

Regarding claim 7, Damen/Bouteren teaches the device of claim 5 as set forth above, wherein the value is correlated to an energy value (Bouteren teaches a correlation between the acceleration value and an energy value, See Page 141 Section IV and Page 137, Column 1, and Damen teaches a device wherein the input is used to calculate the PAI which is correlated to an energy value i.e. the total energy expenditure and basal metabolic rate, see [0006] and [0010]). Damen fails to teach the device wherein the ergometer comprises a database in which the value correlates to a nutritional value (calories). Richardson teaches an activity monitoring device comprising a system which monitors locomotion and heart rate information which is translated into useful information (calories burned/nutritional value) and stored in a database see Column 16, Line 55 thru Column 17, Line 4.

Both Damen/Bouteren and Richardson teach activity monitoring devices. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device taught by Damen/Bouteren to include a database in which the value is correlated to a nutritional value of energy expenditure as taught by Richardson in order to provide useful information to the user, see Column 16, Line 55 thru Column 17, Line 4.

Regarding claim 8, Damen/Bouten/Richardson teaches the Ergometer as claimed in claim 7 as set forth above, wherein the ergometer comprises a memory (memory 18, see Damen Figure 3) in which energy values can be stored over a certain period of time (the processor 17 stores the calculated PAI's in a memory, see Figure [0024]).

Regarding claim 9, Damen/Bouten/Richardson teaches the Ergometer as claimed in claim 7 as set forth above, wherein the ergometer comprises a screen (LCD 3, see Damen [0028]) on which the instantaneous effort and/or average effort can be displayed in energy values over a certain period (features the PAI averaged over time or more selectable periods, see [0028]).

10. Claims 4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Depeursinge et al. (US 6,201,476 B1) in view of Mäntyjärvi et al. (US 2002/0082079 A1).

Depeursinge teaches the device wherein the signal processing means comprises a processor 6 and a transmitting means to activate an alarm. Depeursinge fails to teach the device wherein the processing means comprises a signal amplifier, a bandpass filter and a processor. Mäntyjärvi teaches a accelerometer system comprising controller having DSP processor and a transmitter, (see Figure 2, [0022] and[0023]), comprising a processing means having a transmitter 202 that amplifies the modulated signal to the

antenna (amplifier) and a D/A converter that filters the frequency outside the desired frequency band in the receiver (band pass filter).

Both Depeursinge and Mantyjarvi teach acceleration sensor systems having transmitters. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device taught by Depeursinge to include the transceiver system comprising a band pass filter and signal amplifier as taught by Mantyjarvi in order to amplify a signal from an alarm center providing feedback to the patient and limit the transmission signal from the unit in a band limited system, see Mantyjarvi [0023].

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Response to Arguments

Claim Objections:

The Applicants amendment filed 3/18/2008 corrected the previous objections to claims 1 and 5, hence the previous objections to claims 1 and 5 has been withdrawn.

112 2nd Rejections of Claims 7-9:

The Applicant's amendment(s), see Claims and Applicants Arguments, filed 3/18/2008, with respect to claims 7-9 overcome the previous rejection . The 35 USC 112 2nd rejection of claims 7-9 has been withdrawn.

35 USC 102 and 103 Rejections:

Applicant's arguments filed 3/18/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant arguments are directed to newly amended claim language which is addressed in the above rejection. The Applicant argues that Depeursinge and Damen fail to disclose or teach the device wherein "...the outputs of the at least two accelerometers are directly connected to the adding element..."

The Examiner disagrees.

Damen teaches a system comprising two adding elements a junction and element 24. The junction is directly connected to the accelerometers by a physical connection of the connecting lines or wires; likewise the adding element 24 is also directly connected to accelerometers by physical connection via the signal lines and integrators. Directly connected reads on the connection junction, the adding element 24. In a system wherein the components are physically connected, the components are directly connected. Thus Damen also teaches a device wherein the outputs of the at least two accelerometers are directly connected to the adding element, as best seen in Figure 3 wherein the output of the sensors are directly connected to the adding element thought their respective amplifiers).

Contact Info

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL C. STOUT whose telephone number is (571)270-5045. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00 Alternate (Fridays).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on 571-272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. C. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736